

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ news release

Most 343-5634

Florida's Pelican Island, the first National Wildlife Refuge which began as a 3-acre rookery for colonial birds in 1903 and has since been enlarged, also is believed to have wilderness values. The island on Florida's east coast, 130 miles north of Miami, has a 616-acre unit which is being considered

for wilderness status. A public hearing is scheduled for 9 a.m. April 5 at the New Community Building in Vero Beach.

Information is available from the Refuge Manager, Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, Box 956, Titusville, Fla. 32780, or the Regional Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, Atlanta, Ga.

A public hearing on wilderness status for 12 acres of rocky islands in Lakes Michigan and Huron will be held at 9 a.m. March 29 at the County Fairgrounds, Petoskey, Mich. The islands are part of Michigan Islands National Wildlife Refuge. Two of them are in Lake Michigan north of Charlesvoix and the third is just southeast of Alpena, in Lake Huron. Information about these is available from the Refuge Manager, Shiawassee National Wildlife Refuge, Rural Route #1, Saginaw, Mich., or the Regional Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, 1006 W. Lake St., Minneapolis, Minn. 55408.

A completed study of several small islands off the Oregon coast will be the subject of a public hearing at 9 a.m. April 4 at the Extension Service Auditorium in Eugene, Ore. The study area includes the 21-acre Oregon Islands National Wildlife Refuge off southern Oregon and the 17-acre Three Arch Rocks National Wildlife Refuge to the north. Information is available from the Refuge Manager, National Wildlife Refuge, Route 2, Box 208, Corvallis 97330, or the Regional Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, P.O. Box 3737, Portland, Ore. 97208.

Several small islands off north Washington have also been studied for wilderness status. Public hearings regarding them are scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. March 28 at the VFW Hall in Aberdeen, Wash. They are the Copalis National Wildlife Refuge, five acres, Flattery Rocks National Wildlife Refuge, 125 acres, and Quillayute Needles National Wildlife Refuge, 117 acres. Additional information on these is available from the Regional Director, Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife, P.O. Box 3737, Portland, Ore. 97208.

Individuals or organizations may express their views on these wilderness proposals orally or in writing. Written comments for the official record may be sent to the Regional Directors concerned before the hearing dates.

X X X

89744